

April

Magic Lantern Society
US and Canada

NEWS 2015



Be Sure to LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects

Motion
picture
theater
advertising
slide for
APRIL
FOOL, 1926.
Slide reads:
Chadwick
Pictures
Corporation
presents
Alexander
Carr in
APRIL
FOOL.

*Click slide to
double your
April Fool!*

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Victorian Modernities

From Kentwood Wells

'Co-sponsored by the Centre for Victorian Literature and Culture (University of Kent) and the Dickens Project (University of California, Santa Cruz) at

University of Kent
25–27 June 2015

With keynote speakers Professor Jonathan Grossman (UCLA) and Dr Ruth Livesey (Royal Holloway) and featuring a **magic lantern show performed by Joss Marsh and David Francis from the Kent Museum of the Moving Image**

On 9 June 1865 at 3.30pm, Charles Dickens came close to losing his life when the South Eastern train in which he was travelling from Folkestone to London derailed while crossing a viaduct near Staplehurst in Kent. While Dickens and his travelling companions – Ellen Ternan and her mother – survived, ten passengers were killed and forty were injured. The accident affected him greatly, and he continued to suffer “sudden rushes of terror, even when riding in a hansom cab”, as he confessed a year after the event. The grim ghost story that emerged from this traumatic experience to be published in *All the Year Round* – “No. 1 Branch Line. The Signalman” – contrasts markedly with the ebullient celebration of railway speed in “A Flight” – his earlier account of travelling from London to Paris

for Household Words. While Dickens’s early responsiveness to the symbolism of the railway and embrace of the connections enabled by new technological and industrial processes may have made him a “leader of the steam-whistle party par excellence” as Ruskin claimed, his writing also resonates with many of the anxieties and instabilities we associate with modernity.

The 150th anniversary of the Staplehurst railway accident in June 2015 provides us with an occasion to reflect upon the ambivalence that distinguished the Victorians’ multifaceted engagement with the complex concept we now refer to as modernity. We welcome proposals that address any aspect of Victorian modernities and especially encourage interdisciplinary approaches.

Enquiries can be sent to Cathy Waters (c.waters@kent.ac.uk) or Wendy Parkins (w.j.parkins@kent.ac.uk)

Know the Stories or Their Titles?

From Bob and Sue Hall

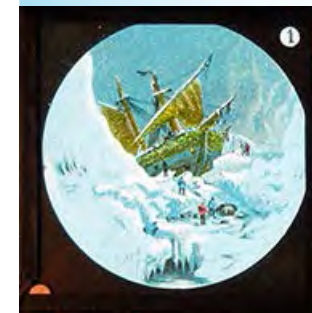


Here are two slides of a set of 12 slides. No box. No identification.



And two additional slides from a set of 10 with no box or ID. Can anyone tell us what the stories were or what the titles of the story sets were? Thanks for your help,

rbtdhall@aol.com





Home

Author of Peck's Bad Boy

George W. Peck

Author, Politician, Publisher, and Statesman

<http://www.georgewpeck.com/gpbio.html>

Magic Lantern Slides

[illegible]

Below is a great example of an advertisement for an upcoming Magic Lantern show.



By the 1890's comedy troupes (Mainly Atkinson's Comedy Company) were performing Peck's Bad Boy on stage all over the east and midwest. The Bad Boy went on to appear in three movies, was the subject of two board games, was featured in a number of comic books and was the the star of magic lantern slide shows at the theatre.

continued next page

<http://www.georgewepeck.com/slides.html>

Peck's Bad Boy Continued

Here are some sample slides from the 72 view set.



This ad points out the money making possibilities of the Enterprise Stereopticon Outfit. The large 2 x 3 poster that is part of the package is shown below.

[illegible]



"To eBay or Not to eBay"

by Bob and Sue Hall

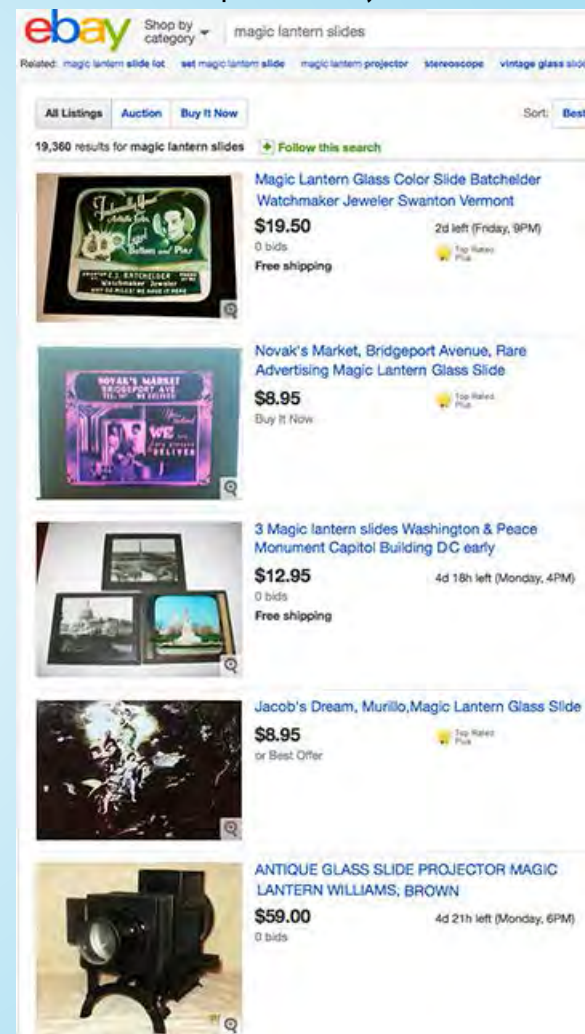
Part 2 OUR LOVE HATE RELATIONSHIP WITH eBay

In the beginning there was eBay and it was kind and good and user friendly and benefited the seller in many ways. Not so much anymore. In the last few years we have "damned" eBay so many times it is a wonder it hasn't imploded. Here is a perfect example of what we mean. We have a wonderful slide of Ivory sellers in Africa. Near naked Black Men are stacking tusks on the dock for shipment overseas. That view is of interest in numerous ways and so would appeal to a large number of buyers. BUT you cannot use the word "Ivory" in any listing on eBay. You cannot use the word "insurance" in a listing either. With that restriction try selling a slide from the rituals of many early fraternal societies that were formed strictly to sell insurance to members. "No, no" words are only one small challenge.

A seller is now responsible for an item from the time it is put in the mail until it is in the hands of the buyer. Even if you have documentation and a USPS tracking number, if the buyer says he didn't get the item, too bad, especially if it is an overseas item. To protect yourself you can buy insurance (expensive and cuts down your profits a lot) or pay for signature confirmation, another cost and usually not appreciated by most buyers.

eBay now requires a return policy. The buyer has at least 14 days to return an item. Depending on the option you choose it could be more. The only negative we have on our feedbacks is from a guy we sold a lantern to and who cheated us. He made an offer at the very beginning of our listing because he only wanted the lens. We wanted the entire lantern sold intact. He was the high bidder. We shipped the lantern. He said it arrived with a "broken" lens. Left negative feedback and shipped it back to us. We should have seen that one coming! eBay refunded his money and we were stuck with a lantern with HIS broken lens on it which he had switched on us. The only positive about this is that eBay had a policy that if an item is returned, the buyer has to pay the return postage. Our customer complained about that too but eBay stood behind us on that one. (I have just heard that that policy has recently changed and the seller now has to pay return postage too.) The real clincher is that a seller cannot leave negative feedback for a buyer. No way to warn other sellers when there is a buyer with whom they should not deal.

Sample Slides on Ebay



continued next page



One last complaint.

eBay regularly makes changes to their programs. Some do improve the system. But many seem to be change for changes sake. After you get used to and comfortable with doing things a certain way it is hard, and time consuming, to have to learn something different. This is also true of Paypal, an eBay subsidiary.

So we lied about the “one more complaint.” Since eBay bought Paypal they have now made it nearly impossible to receive a payment in anyway except Paypal---which costs the seller money. By the time you pay eBay’s listing fees, final value fees, and Paypal fees you have given them at least 10 percent of your sale price. Thank goodness the buyer pays for the postage.

Things we love about eBay—not much, not anymore. BUT here are some positives:

Continued

1. eBay is the only game in town. There are other auction sites, but none of them have nearly as large a customer base as eBay.
2. If you have an unusual item eBay gets it out all over the world to people who just might be after what you have that you would never sell locally.
3. Even if your item is not unusual, you just need two people who really want it and Voila! You sold it for way more than you expected---and that’s fun!!
4. After eBay added Turbo Lister you can list off line and then upload when you wish. You can also pre-list items and schedule them to go on eBay at the time and date of your choosing. This is particularly nice if you are going to be out of town for a few days.
5. It gives us (Sue and Bob) something to do with our mornings. It adds structure to our day. We make a little money. Don’t even think about our hourly wage, but what would we be making sitting in our rocking chairs watching TV?

When we first started listing on eBay it was wonderful. For slides with great appeal to collectors, e. g. old motorcycles, Native Americans, etc., prices realized could be phenomenal. However, as the years have gone by eBay has proved that lanterns and slides are not as rare as once thought. We used to think eBay lowered the selling price of lanterns and raised the price of slides. Not so much anymore. At last count there were 18,000+ items currently listed on eBay in the “Magic Lantern” category. That’s a lot of competition.

We used to believe we could get more for the lanterns, and some of the slides, selling them at antique shows. Now in the days of “smart phones” that is no longer true. People can spot something in your booth, check the on-line eBay price, and just keep walking if your price isn’t competitive.

Next time:

Part 3 Here’s How Bob and Sue Do It (eBay)



55 Hand Colored MAGIC
LANTERN GLASS SLIDES
ALGERIA and TUNESIA
in Original Box

From Germany

\$2,725.00
or Best Offer



99 Hand Colored MAGIC
LANTERN GLASS SLIDES
SWEDEN in Original Box
1910 ~ 1930

People, Nature,
Buildings, Wild Life, Cities etc.

\$2,725.00
or Best Offer

From Germany

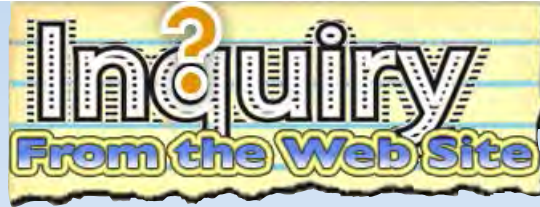


79 Hand Colored MAGIC
LANTERN GLASS SLIDES
JOURNEY AROUND
THE WORLD BOXED 1910s

From Germany

\$2,725.00
or Best Offer

Sample High Priced Slides on Ebay



From Dominic

I have a 1860's onwards child's magic lantern in its original box with glass slides I'm looking to re-home. I brought it from the UK and been in the family for years

Doesn't have the oil lamp

Asking price is \$250 or nearest offer.

Dom

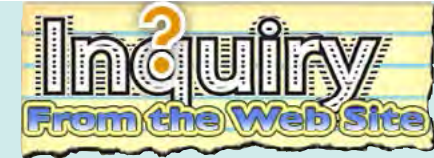
Tweed, Ontario K0K 3J0 613 473 5263
no problem boxing and shipping

dominic@globalbritish.com

From David Evans

The maker is Ernst Plank of Nuremburg, Germany. They were founded in 1866 and ceased production in the 1930s. By 1894 they employed 120 workers and produced around 150,000 magic lanterns per year. Your example is a nice clean one and looks more like 1870-80 than later. Does it have the original oil lamp with glass chimney inside? If so, that helps the value.

Regards
David



From: Avalon Eamon

Digitizing Magic Lantern Show

Hello,
I am an undergraduate student and for a digital history class project I am working with lantern slides. I am digitizing an entire magic lantern show from World War One (two series) as well as transcribing and uploading the script for the show. I will then have a video with narration giving the magic lantern show and some contextual information on the showman. I was wondering if your group is interested in it at all?

Cheers,
Avalon Eamon

From David Evans

Hello Avalon

I'll get it into our monthly E-Publication. Your email listed so that members can contact you if they are interested.

Hello David,
Here is the link to the website which contains my project:
<https://ww1magiclanternshow.wordpress.com/>
I hope that you and the other members of your society enjoy it! However, it will still be a work in progress until April 1st, so I would appreciate it if you waited to share it until then. I'm in Waterloo, Ontario and members can contact me at aleamon@uwaterloo.ca.
Cheers,
Avalon Eamon

Plain & Fancy Theatre Lantern Shows

From Terry Borton

The picture shows the triunial to be used at the Plain & Fancy Theatre in Bird-in-Hand, PA for the lantern shows co-produced by The American Magic-Lantern Theater and The Amish Experience. The Theatre will offer hourly magic-



lantern shows, on request, from 10:00-5:00, from May to December. The lantern is mounted on a heavy-duty lift, which will be incased inside a large cabinet holding the lantern. The lift will raise the lantern out of the cabinet when needed for a lantern show. At other times it will be lowered so that it does not interfere with the sight lines for "Jacob's Choice," the recorded multi-media show about the Amish, also running in the theater.

Member Activity

From Samuel Grosdemange of France

Dear David, Ron,

I am myself collecting biblical and historical slides used for the Photo-Drama of Creation, a 8 hours Christian magic lantern teaching program launched in 1914. I organized an authentic magic lantern show in France in December 14th, 2014 for the Centennial with an audience of 160 people. It was great ! Everybody was delighted !

I would love to share more information with you if you are interested. I am still searching for many biblical and historical slides (old and new testament, life of Luther, french revolution, etc). I have a photo of each slide (500!) I am still searching. So far I have difficulties to find anyone able to help. I am wondering if I should write an add in the e-Mag... If you think it is a good idea, please just let me know and I will write a little article...

Keep the good work in the Society!

Kind regards,
Sam.
Thionville, France

From David Evans

Dear Sam

Your show certainly sounds unique and great that it was a huge success! Many of the biblical slides have beautiful images and are undervalued from the artistic point of view. We should be very pleased to learn more about your project. If a short article it can go in the E-Publication (contact Larry Cederblom - designerlc@comcast.net), if longer you might consider publishing in our Magic Lantern Gazette (contact the editor, Kentwood Wells - kentwood.wells@uconn.edu) I look forward to reading it!

Kind regards
David Evans

**SOME
ASSEMBLY
REQUIRED**

Your
Opportunity
to Use These
Words



- Be a Contributor
- Share Your Knowledge
- Tell that Interesting Story
- What's Your Special Interest?
- What Will You Contribute?
- Contributions Needed for
The Magic Lantern Gazette



Please contact
Kentwood D. Wells
Editor, The Magic Lantern Gazette

kentwood.wells@uconn.edu

Looking For Civil War Images

From Michael Patris

I am in search of a few magic lantern slides that have round images and are cased in wood which have Civil War images. I am particularly looking for any balloon related material.

If you can help, please contact Michael at mpatris@pacbell.net

Instructions For Bausch & Lomb BB Balopticon

From Eric Stott

I'm looking to find the the instructions for the Model BB Dissolving Balopticon. This is the model which uses a rheostat to fade one slide into another.



estott@localnet.com

Lantern Slide Projection

From Martyn Jolly



A magic lantern slide was projected onto the front façade of the National Library of Australia as part of Canberra's Enlighten festival, which ran from February 28 to March 8. Martyn Jolly selected a tinted slide from the National Library of Australia's Australian Inland Mission collection which totals of 4,400 slides, and modified it to fit across the entire front of the Library.

The Reverend John Flynn was Superintendent of the Australian Inland Mission for almost forty years from 1912. A keen photographer, Flynn used magic lantern slides in the lectures he gave to publicise the work of the mission in providing medical, nursing and pastoral services to the people of the Inland. The National Library of Australia now holds a large collection of these beautifully hand-tinted images. The one used for this projection was taken in 1926 by a 'Miss Colley' and documents the Oodnadatta to Alice Springs Mail. Presumably Flynn used it to illustrate the vast distances of the Inland.



Miss M Colley, Oodnadatta Alice Springs mail, 1926, Australian Inland Mission Collection, National Library of Australia, nla.pic-an24601333.

From Anna

anna.dorotea.nilsson@gmail.com

Hi I was wondering if I have a magic lantern..
I can send you a picture.
I just want to know what it is.

Response from David Evans:

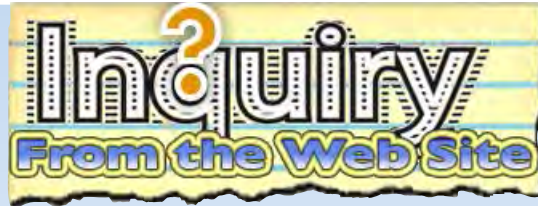
I don't actually recognise it exactly, though it is a form of magic lantern. Could you take a few more pictures, like with the door open, on top, etc? Need to know what that knob on the top does, what sort of illuminant it has, whether the hole in the top is a chimney, a lens holder or something else. It looks like a dual purpose device, such as for both slides and opaque images, but need a bit more information.

Thanks.

David

**Please share any information
you have about this projector.**

**Send to
DAVID EVANS**



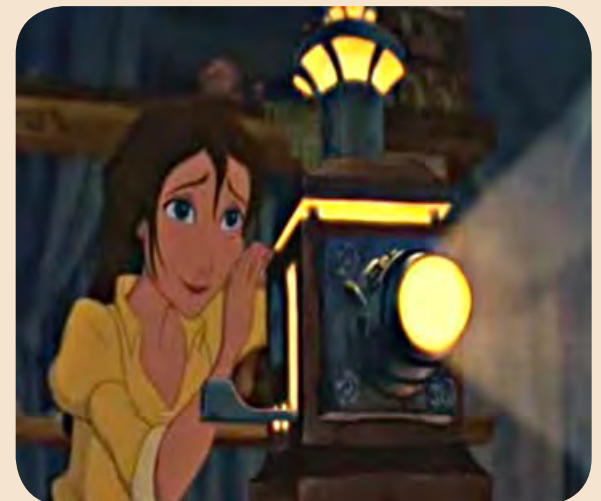
**Magic Lantern in
Disney's Tarzan**

From Terry Borton



Here's a link to a You Tube clip of the Magic Lantern in Disney's "Tarzan."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zc3MnoSS5Hw>



Response to What Is It?

From
The Magic Lantern Gazette
Volume 22, Number 3 Fall 2010

Postcard Projectors: The New Magic Lanterns for Boys? Kentwood D. Wells

"Don't buy magic lanterns until you have seen the latest thing out, the Polyopticon, an Optical Wonder," cried one advertisement.

"Magic lanterns outdone by the Polyopticon!" said another. The instrument in question was an early attempt, in the 1880s, to provide children with a type of magic lantern that could project ordinary opaque pictures from magazines, advertising cards, or images supplied by the projector's manufacturer, the Murray Hill Publishing Company of New York. Ads for this device typically showed a circular

image projected on a wall, like the images produced by a magic lantern (Fig. 1). Polyopticons actually came in two different models. The cheapest, which sold for \$2.50 with 200 printed pictures, was essentially a cardboard lampshade, fitted with a reflector and lens to project opaque images. The "improved" \$5.00 model was a two-tiered wooden box, fitted with its own kerosene lamp, a reflector to illuminate a picture



Magic Lanterns Outdone. The Polyopticon, or Wonder Camera.



See the Christian Union for Oct.
19, 1882, Page 355.

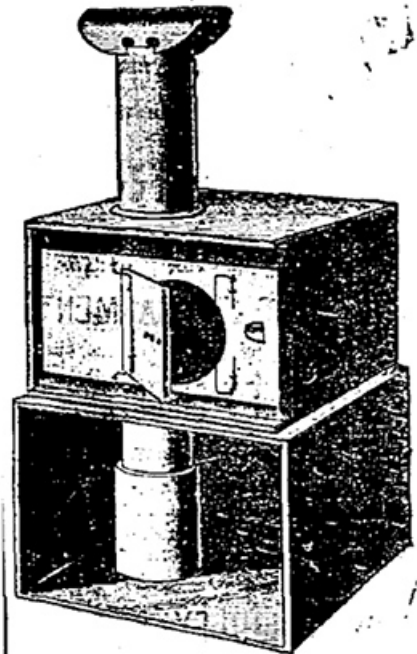
The Polyopticon will show on a wall or screen greatly enlarged views of newspaper or book illustrations, portraits, comic cuts and silhouettes, chromo cards in their colors, the works of a watch in motion, etc. Can be used on any Armand Gas or Oil Burner, making a 3-foot picture.

PRICE, \$2.50. Address

Ernest Goldbacher, Optician,
94 EILTON ST., NEW YORK.

Fig. 1. Advertisement for the Polyopticon (lampshade model), Christian Union November 30, 1882

placed in the back of the projector, and a lens to project the image (Fig. 2). The picture was placed against a cardboard mask with a circular opening, presumably to mimic the traditional round shape of the image of a magic lantern slide projected on a screen. The polyopticon was sold with a supply of printed pictures, including "ten chromo-lithographic portraits of eminent actors and actresses."



THE POLYOPTICON.

A WONDER CAMERA.

A PHILOSOPHICAL PRINCIPLE, heretofore only applied in very expensive apparatus, for collections, demonstrations, etc., is now made available for everybody's use.

AT THE VERY LOW PRICE OF \$2.50.

THE POLYOPTICON

will project upon the wall greatly enlarged views of Newspaper, Magazine and Book Illustrations, Portraits, Comic Cuts, Silhouettes, Card Photographs, And the faces of Large Photographs.

CHROMO CARDS in all their COLORS. Flowers, Butterflies, and other objects. The works of a Watch in Motion. Home-Made Drawings and Sketches.

With each Polyopticon is included (without extra cost) Fifty Prints and Colored Picture Cards, including Thirty Comic Prints, Silhouettes, and Ten Chromo-Lithographic Portraits of Eminent Actors and Actresses.

PRICE \$3.00.

EXTRA PICTURES.

100 Lithographs.....50c. 150 Chromos.....30c.

We have a smaller size at \$1.50 each.

Send money by registered letter or Post Office Money Order, to

WORLD MANUFACTURING COMPANY,
121 Nassau Street, New York.

Fig. 2. Advertisement for the wooden model Polyopticon, Christian Union, November 9, 1882.

A Big Thank You to the following:

Terry Borton
Bob and Sue Hall
Ron Easterday
David Evans
Samuel Grosdemange
Martyn Jolly
Michael Patris
Eric Stott
Kentwood Wells

for contributing to this months issue.

Now it's your turn to share!

Do you have a favorite site or a collection of images you would like to share with the rest of the society?
If your answer is yes! Send site information or your images to Larry and they will be shared in the next E-pub newsletter.

E-mail Larry



Welcome New Members

Clayton Santos Guimaraes

Rua Francisco da Rocha Soares, 43R/C
Porto
Porto 4050-281
Portugal
csguimaraens@gmail.com
(+351) 9168 23681
Student
XVIII & XIX Century lanterns & slides, also
literature about optical media

Robert A Bennett

35 So. Palouse Street
Walla Walla
WA 99362
USA
clarettes@gmail.com
(509) 520-1009
Historian/Restaurateur
Has three lanterns. Interested in hand-coloured
slides of Western landscape

Prof Lee Fontanella

107 Parkway South
New London
CT 06320
USA
lee.fontanella@hotmail.com
(860) 884 9865
Retired Professor
Interested in all literature, also about early
photography

David M Vogt

27 Wesley Drive
Sherwood
AR 72120-2911
USA
(501)835-1620
vogt_d@yahoo.com
Interested in early photographic slides

Lens Needed for Giveaway Lantern

A lens like this



We need a lens for one of the lanterns that were donated by the **Puget Sound Photographic Collectors Society**. We have the opportunity to donate a lantern to the Okanogan County Historical Society in Washington state. They have the need of a lantern to project and share the slide images they have in their collection. If you can donate a lens that will fit a Bausch and Lomb shown below. If you can help with this donation please click email link below.



**Email
LARRY**